



March 31-April 1, 2014 -- Wikipedia run as an extortion; on-line PR racket

publication date: Mar 31, 2014

[Previous](#) | [Next](#)

March 31-April 1, 2014 -- Wikipedia run as an extortion; on-line PR racket

Wikipedia co-founder Jimmy Wales thinks of himself as a high-tech visionary who brought a free on-line encyclopedia to the masses. To the contrary, Wales, in setting up the Wikimedia Foundation, which is said to provide "good governance" over Wikipedia's operations, is actually a "pay to play" cash cow that ensures the world's movers and shakers are treated to glowing biographies on Wikipedia while others, who lack the deep pockets of Wikipedia's major benefactors, are forced to deal with libel, innuendo, and anonymous and defamatory Wikipedia editors.

A review of the Annual Reports of the San Francisco-based Wikimedia Foundation for 2010-11 and 2012-13 reveals that among Wikipedia's top donors are individuals who just happen to have relatively glowing Wikipedia biographies. Even deceased notables ensure that their Wikipedia entries are posthumously reverential through the donations to Wikimedia by their foundations and estates.

What is even more revealing about the opaque operations of the Wikimedia Foundation is that its largest donors are associated with firms that have been shown by the leaks from National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden to be partners of the NSA's targeted cyber-penetration and acquisition operations. This fact, coupled, with the identification of Wikipedia as a weapon-of-choice for NSA information warfare operatives, reveals Wikipedia to be a corporate- and government-sanctioned repository for blatant propaganda.

Wikimedia's last two annual reports have the expected testimonials from individuals who are as anonymous as Wikipedia's self-absorbed anonymous editors. For example, someone using only the first name of "Gereon," billed as a "writer and translator" in Germany, claims "Almost everybody who contributes to Wikipedia does so completely for free. No one makes money on Wikipedia's millions of articles and images. And yet, it works . Wikipedia keeps growing, and it keeps getting better."

Perhaps "Gereon" has not heard of the case of Wikimedia UK trustee and board chairman Roger Bamkin. Sitting on £1 million in Wikimedia UK's "non-profit" donation coffers, Bamkin decided he could make a little extra pocket change by shilling for the Gibraltar Tourist Board in the British territory on Spain's southern coast. Helping Gibraltar to develop "Gibraltarpedia," Bamkin ensured that Gibraltar-friendly articles were prominently featured on Wikipedia's front page. Bamkin was forced to resign. However, he was replaced as a Gibraltar tourism-friendly editor by someone using the handle "Prioryman." Wikimedia UK was wracked with allegations of conflicts-of-interest of trustees and editors after Bamkin's resignation. However, Wales, the consummate libertarian who refuses to take any responsibility for his own and his business' actions, sloughed off the controversy by saying, "It is wildly inappropriate for a board member of a chapter, or anyone else in an official role of any kind in a charity associated with Wikipedia, to take payment from customers in exchange for securing favorable placement on the front page of Wikipedia or anywhere else."

However, Wales continues to adhere to the line that Wikipedia can govern itself although there is ample evidence that Wikipedia and Wikimedia could use a thorough investigation of their activities by both the Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission.

Another testimonial on Wikimedia's 2012-13 report is from a female South African high schooler named "Sinako" who attends Sinenjongo High School in Joe Slovo Park in Cape Town. Although many high school teachers and college professors, as well as librarians, warn researchers away from relying on the blemished information contained in Wikipedia, Sinarko says, "Wikipedia is a very useful website especially for us students." Perhaps Sinarko is unaware that Wikipedia calls her town a "shack settlement," a residential area named after Joe Slovo, the leader of the South African Communist Party and the Minister of Housing in President Nelson Mandela's first majority-elected government.

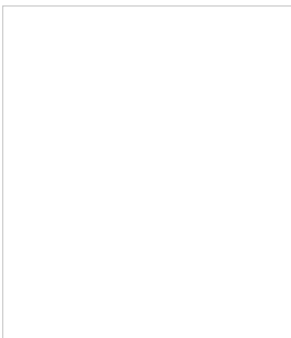
Perhaps if Slovo had a major foundation named after himself, which donated money to Wikimedia, he would receive a better Wikipedia entry without the "shack settlement" slur.

Among Wikimedia's top donors, to the tune of \$1 million plus, are the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Stanton Foundation. Wikipedia glosses over General Motors' chairman and CEO Alfred Sloan's continued service on the board of the German automobile manufacturer Opel, a GM subsidiary, even after the Nazis took over Germany. General Motors' business links and supply of armaments to the German war machine to are described in Sloan's Wikipedia entry but alongside his apologia that GM had no control over Opel operations after the firm was nationalized by the Nazis.

The Wikipedia entry for Frank Stanton, in whose name the Stanton Foundation lavishes Wikimedia with well over a million dollars, is even more problematic. No mention is made of Stanton's role as the president of CBS in the cashiering of longtime CBS News correspondent and anchor Edward R. Murrow.

Similarly, a run down of Wikimedia's other top donors reveals a list of those whose Wikipedia entries highlight their "good works" and philanthropy and downplay their business practices. The Brin Wojcicki Foundation, named for Google co-founder Sergey Brin and his wife Anne Wojcicki, gave between \$100,000 and \$1 million to Wikimedia. Brin's Wikipedia entry says nothing about seed money for Google from the CIA's IN-Q-IT (later IN-Q-TEL) venture capital firm. Brin's Wikipedia entry describes him as one of The Economist's "Enlightenment Men" and glosses over his firm's deals with China to institute censorship for that nation's Google users. Brin is quoted in his Wikipedia article as saying, "Chinese would still be better off than without having Google available." Google later decided to leave China and move its operations to Hong Kong. However, many critics claim IT was too little and too late, since Brin and Google had already helped trained Chinese government censors on how to censor on-line content. None of these details are found in Brin's Wikipedia biography because that is what up to \$1 million from a billionaire into "Jimbo" Wales's pocket will buy someone who wants a pristine biography for all his fans to see.

Wales's extortion scam does not end with Brin. A direct correlation can be made between large donors and deferential Wikipedia entries. Examples include large donations and the effect on related Wikipedia entries by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Matching Gifts Program, the Omidyar Network, the Google Matching Gifts Fund, the Ford Foundation, Newsmax CEO Christopher Ruddy, Goldman Sachs Matching Gifts Program, AT&T Employee Giving, CA Technologies Matching Gift Program (formerly Computer Associates), Bank of America Matching Gifts, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Charles Schwab Foundation, GE Foundation, Newsmax Media, John Templeton Foundation, Abdul bin Laden, Abdulla al-Thani, Mohammed al-Khalifa, Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation Matching Gifts Program, Apple Matching Gifts Program, Adobe Systems, Inc., Qualcomm Matching Gifts, Yahoo Employee Gifts Matching Program, Howard Ahmanson, EADS North America Matching Gift, Exxon Mobil Matching Gifts Program, Freddie Mac Foundation, BlackRock Matching Gifts Program, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Matching Gift Program, Clorox Company Foundation Employee Giving Program, Oracle Corporation Matching Gifts Program, U.S. Department Boulder Labs (includes components of National Institute of Standards and Technology - NIST), the Jewish Community Endowment Fund, Jewish Community Federation Endowment Fund, Craigslist Charitable Fund, Boeing Company Matching Gifts, and Timur Artemev.



The "free" encyclopedia isn't so free to those who want to ensure reverential biographical entries

Artemev is an interesting donor. The co-founder of Russia's Euroset, Russia's largest mobile phone provider, his Wikipedia entry merely says he "ran afoul" of Russia's "siloviki" or security services. Nothing is mentioned about charges that Artemev and his associates had engaged in smuggling cell phones into Russia in violation of customs laws. But that is what between \$5000 and \$24,999 into Jimbo Wales's pocket can do for you if you are looking for favorable treatment by Wikipedia.

What Wales has capitalized on is an on-line version of the "Who's Who" scam. Before the Internet came into being, one could have a "walk-on-water" entry published in any number of "Who's Who" encyclopedias, but for a handsome fee. If one decided to pay for their Who's Who entry, they would receive in the mail the encyclopedia and even a certificate suitable for framing. However, if the individual did not purchase succeeding editions of the Who's Who, they would be dropped from the Who's Who coverage. "Pay to play," that is what Wales figured out he could do with Wikipedia and the Internet after he left the on-line pornography business in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Many of Wikimedia's donors also have long associations with the work of the NSA, including Microsoft, Google, AT&T, Yahoo, Hewlett Packard, GE, Oracle, Qualcomm, Boeing, and Computer Associates. It makes sense that these NSA partners would want to keep alive Wikipedia, which, according to one revealed TOP SECRET PowerPoint slide is a major player in NSA's cyber-warfare operations.

It is also interesting to note that the government of Qatar, two individuals associated with the ruling al-Thani family of Qatar and the al-Khalifa family of Bahrain, as well as a member of the Bin Laden family, have all kicked in to Wikimedia. A glance of Qatar's Wikipedia entry gives only cursory mention of Qatar's domination by the radical Muslim Brotherhood.

All one has to do to see the conflict-of-interest between Wikipedia's information and their donors is how contributions affect the encyclopedia's treatment of the bailout of Wall Street, hedge funds, bankers' suicides, 9/11, election machine fraud, Israel, Vladimir Putin, oil disasters, on-line prostitution, Pierre Omidyar and his support for the Ukraine coup, and Big Pharma.

For those who do not have the funds to pay Wikimedia to ensure an accurate Wikipedia biographical sketch or refuse to engage in Wikimedia's drawn-out amending "process" to correct an erroneous entry, such as that found on this editor, it's "no dice." But that is how dealing with racketeers, such as Wales and his gang of shake-down artists and "anonymous" editors, usually works out.

For Wales, Wikipedia is a win-win situation. He lines his pockets as big corporate interests and governments around the world ensure that the propaganda-ridden "Great Soviet Encyclopedia" has a worthy capitalist successor in Wikipedia.

Generally, readers are solely responsible for the content of the comments they post on this web site. Comments are subject to the site's terms and conditions of use and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or approval of Wayne Madsen Report.com. Readers whose comments violate the terms of use may have their comments removed without notification. Please do not post hate messages as this is a violation of European Union law against racist and xenophobic messages. WMR's web service is based in Wales, UK and is subject to EU law.